

## ISTEP+ English/Language Arts Item Sampler (Beginning in Spring 2009)

### Purpose

The purpose of this Item Sampler is to provide teachers and students with examples of the different types of questions that will appear on the English/Language Arts portions of the ISTEP+ beginning in the spring of 2009. Each grade-level ELA assessment will consist of four (4) item types: multiple-choice, constructed-response, extended-response and a writing prompt.

### Applied Skills Item Types:

#### 1.) Constructed-Response (CR)

- All ELA constructed-response items will be passage-based.

#### 2.) Extended-Response (ER)

- ERs include a stand-alone prompt preceded by a small stimulus (that will act as a springboard for student writing).

#### 3.) Writing Prompt (WP)

- No significant changes have been made to the writing prompt item.

Students must respond in writing to all open-ended items, and it is important that students complete each item. It is possible, however, for students who have attempted to complete an item to receive partial credit for their work on that item.

Constructed-response items will require students in grades 3 through 8 to delve deeper into the accompanying text and provide richer responses in order to demonstrate reading comprehension.

As in the past, the extended-response item and the writing prompt will continue to require students in grades 4 through 8 to engage in higher-level thinking skills for an extended time period; **both an extended-response item and a writing prompt will become part of the grade 3 ELA assessment beginning in Spring 2009.**

### Prewriting/Planning Space for ER and WP Items:

Each extended-response item and each writing prompt will be accompanied by a **blank** prewriting/planning space for students at all grade levels to use in preparation for their final drafts. While this is a change for some grade levels, it is intended to allow students to use a variety of prewriting techniques. As always, teachers will be able to provide additional blank planning paper at students' request.

The table at the top of the next page identifies the ELA standards assessed during each of the two assessment windows.

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<b>ISTEP+ Testing Windows and Content (ELA, Grades 3-8)</b>			
<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Window</b>	<b>Standards Assessed</b>	<b>Item Types</b>
Writing Assessment	March	2 and 3	CR
		5 and 6	ER, WP
Progress Assessment	Late April/Early May	1-6	MC

**Holistic Rubrics for Scoring Applied Skills Items**

**Constructed-Response**

- Each CR item will be scored for reading comprehension using a 2-point holistic rubric (see below).
  - This rubric was designed to allow for more flexibility in awarding credit to a greater variety of student responses.

**Extended-Response**

- 4-point Writing Applications rubric
- 4-point Language Conventions rubric

***Beginning in Spring 2009, ER items will not be passage-based (i.e., no Reading Comprehension score).***

**Writing Prompt**

- 6-point Writing Applications rubric
- 4-point Language Conventions rubric

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**English/Language Arts  
2-point Constructed-Response (CR) Rubric (DRAFT)**

<b>2 points</b>	<b>Proficient</b> The response fulfills all the requirements of the task. The information given is text-based and relevant to the task.
<b>1 point</b>	<b>Partially Proficient</b> The response fulfills some of the requirements of the task, but the information may be too general, too simplistic, or not supported by the text.
<b>0 point</b>	<b>Not Proficient</b> The response does not fulfill the requirements of the task because some information may be inaccurate, incomplete, and/or missing altogether.

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**Notes:**

- This rubric will be used to score all constructed-response items.
- Each sample constructed-response item that appears in this sampler is accompanied by an example of a “Top-Score Response”. A “Top-Score Response” is included with each item to help illustrate the type of understanding students should demonstrate in order to receive full credit for such an item.